

Chapter 16 Communications 2006 Changes

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~~? New digital radios used in fire operations are tested by the National Wireless Technology Support Unit (NWTSU) for fire approval. The testing is conducted to verify that the radios will withstand the rugged work environments specific to fire and that the radios have operational features and programmability options to meet fires needs.~~

- ~~BLM - Currently the Thales Racal P25 Handheld, the EF Johnson 5100 P25 Handheld, and the Relm/Bendix King DPHX Handheld have been approved for fire use by the BLM. Approved radios have software version requirements and hardware upgrades that must be completed prior to use on fire assignments.~~
- ~~BLM - Testing of additional radios by the manufacturers is in progress.~~

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- ~~? BLM - If there is an accident or event that requires an investigation from the state or national office, the recording covering that time period will be included in the investigation file.~~

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- ? Radios being used in wildland firefighting operations must be able to function in both wideband (25.0 KHz) mode and narrowband (12.5 KHz) mode. Remove radios from the system that cannot be programmed to operate in the narrowband mode.

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Pre-assigned National Frequencies

National Air Guard - 168.625 MHz - A National Interagency Air Guard frequency for government aircraft ? ~~assigned to incidents. It is~~ will be used in for emergency aviation communications. ? Continuous monitoring of this frequency in narrowband mode is mandatory by agency dispatch centers. ~~A separate aircraft priority receiver is required to permit continuous monitoring.~~ Transmitters on this frequency ? ~~must~~ ~~should~~ be equipped with an encoder on 110.9 Hz. 168.625 is restricted to the following use:

- Air-to-air emergency contact and coordination.
- Ground-to-air emergency contact.
- Initial call, recall, and re-direction of aircraft when no other contact frequency is available.